

# In-Fur-Nation

## Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 19, Number 3

All The News We Get, We Print!

Summer, 2008



<Image c. 2008, Dreamworks Animation>

**"I'm not a big fat panda... I'm THE big fat panda!"**  
[Po, panda, from Dreamworks' *Kung Fu Panda*]

Here we are, another record-breaking summer blockbuster season. Funny, when a lot of us can't afford to *get* to the movies! Anyway, here are some cool furry items coming your way soon...

### The News

Dreamworks' *Kung Fu Panda* kicked off the summer with a mighty *hi-YAH!* Opening at number one at the box office its first weekend, taking in more than \$60 million. It even bested the latest **Adam Sandler** movie – some trick! The film managed to hover around the top for three whole weeks, before being knocked down a few notches by the much-anticipated arrival of Disney/Pixar's new film *WALL-E* (not a furry film at all, but a darn good piece of science fiction animation, if you've not heard it). Still, as of this writing, *Kung Fu Panda* has topped \$200 million at the domestic box office, which makes it the third largest Dreamworks franchise, after the *Shrek* movies and *Madagascar* and its sequel. Hey, did we say *franchise*? Well, no one is talking about a sequel to *Kung Fu Panda* just yet... but they are talking about a *Kung Fu Panda* TV series! So, keep your eyes on *In-Fur-Nation* and [infur-nation.com](http://www.infur-nation.com) to get the latest as soon as we find out more! Here's a scoop:

Word is out that Dreamworks might also develop a TV series for the *Madagascar* penguins!

Oo! Here's an update from Rotten Tomatoes ([www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com)): It seems that both *Madagascar 3* AND *Kung Fu Panda 2* are already in development. According to sources at Dreamworks, there is a "magic number" of \$500 million worldwide box-office receipts to be granted entry to the "franchise" club. So *Madagascar* and *Kung Fu Panda* are in, while other films, even though successful, are not. This means no sequels for *Over the Hedge* or *Bee Movie*, unfortunately, at least according to the sources.

Hollywood's current love of CGI-enhanced talking animals continues with *Beverly Hills Chihuahua*, coming this October from Walt Disney Pictures. Comedian **George Lopez** stars as the voice of Papi, a scrappy Chihuahua smitten by a pampered Beverly Hills pooch named Chloe (voiced by **Drew Barrymore**). When Chloe is accidentally shipped off to the mean streets of Mexico, it's up to Papi and a host of dogs high and low to launch a rescue. What better way to win the girl's heart? Find out how it all works out on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This November, the old Disney/Dreamworks CGI rivalry heats up once again as Dreamworks' *Madagascar 2: Escape to Africa* (formerly *The Crate Escape*) and Disney's *Bolt* (formerly *American Dog*) go paw-to-paw. The former finds the original cast returning as the transplanted New York zoo animals, and their new friends the lemurs, crash-land on the African continent as they try to return to the States. There they encounter a herd of zebras and a pride of lions, neither of whom quite know what to make of their city-raised cousins. *Bolt*, on the other hand, stars **John Travolta** as the voice of Bolt, a canine TV star from a flashy special-effects series – who, unfortunately, doesn't realize that all of his superpowers are just that, special effects. Mistakenly lost far from his trainer and best friend, Bolt has to journey across the continent with the help of a cynical cat, and a maniacal guinea pig who is a fan of Bolt's TV show. So, who will come out on top from this battle of the furs? Check with us around Christmas and we'll let you know!

Three words: *Shrek, the Musical*. You read that right. Director **Jason Moore** (*Avenue Q*) is bringing the musical version of the first *Shrek* movie (with book and lyrics by **David Lindsay-Abaire**, and music by **Jeanine Tesori**) to Broadway. First though, there's a "test run" in Seattle of all places. You can find out more about the show, the cast, the creative team, and the schedule at [www.shrekthemusical.com](http://www.shrekthemusical.com).

Interestingly, Imagi International (creators of the recent *TMNT* movie) has picked up *Tusker*, a project which Dreamworks abandoned in 2005. The CGI film, about a herd of elephants trekking home across India, was originally to have starred the voices of **Morgan Freeman** and **Jodie Foster**. The project fell by the wayside when Dreamworks turned to more profitable films like the *Shrek* series. **Cecil Kramer**, former head of production at Dreamworks Animation, brought the production with him when he moved to Imagi. The film is scheduled for release in early 2011. Imagi is also hard at work on *Cat Tale*, the story of a cat raised as a dog.

This last May, one of the institutions of furry fandom came to a close. *Furnation* magazine published its last anthology issue, #10, this last June. This magazine of furry art, comics, and stories was published by FurNation ([www.furnation.com](http://www.furnation.com)). First published in July 2000, it included comics by **K-9**, **WerePuppy**, and **Wookiee**, and an exclusive story, *Caligula on the Caribbean* by **Razee**.

Another, more recent furry institution was on everyone's muzzle this summer. **Fur Affinity**, one of the largest gathering places of anthropomorphic art, stories, and music currently on the web ([www.furaffinity.net](http://www.furaffinity.net)), was offline for just over a month. The reason was a server hardware failure. No art or other content was lost, but the folk in charge of the website decided it would be best to replace all hardware for the system as a precaution. The proceedings took an entire month. Since the site returned to full service on August 6<sup>th</sup>, there has been a flurry of activity as people caught up, at times causing severe lag on the site.

Once again, the August issue of Animation Magazine ([www.animationmagazine.net](http://www.animationmagazine.net)) presents The Pitch Party, where ordinary folks are invited to submit a one-panel idea for a new animated series, to be judged by a panel of animation industry experts. This year's winning idea is called *Learning is FUB!* by **Brian Smith** ("It's the educational show made by morons and starring Stitches the Lobotomized Cat!"). Other entries of interest to furry fandom include *The Happiest Bunny Ever* by **Jeff Di Maggio** ([www.filthyanimation.com](http://www.filthyanimation.com)), *Stray* by **Alexander Curtis** ([www.awtcurtis.com](http://www.awtcurtis.com)), *Lemonade* ([www.girlieprig.com](http://www.girlieprig.com)), *CowKitty* ([emullock.blogspot.com](http://emullock.blogspot.com)), *House of Woaaa* by **Colleen Thomas** ([fossicjuniior.blogspot.com](http://fossicjuniior.blogspot.com)), *Big Foot: Park Ranger* by **Scolland D. Barnes**, *Skaidry Kats and N-Sidious* by **Tim Sexton**, *Bitter Little Raccoon* by **Tom Ramirez**, *Raybeez the Mercenary* by **Melvin Cruz**, *Cooking with Sam 'n Ella* by **Frank Italiano, Jr.** ([www.fitalinc.com](http://www.fitalinc.com)), *Aquacat*, and *A Stork World*.

The Animation Development Company (imaginative title, huh?) is a new group that helps to finance and, yes, develop animation projects for sale to network and syndication markets. Two of their projects are of notable furry interest: *Backfire for Hire* tells the story of a former funny-animal toon star – a fox named Backfire – trying to make it as a job-seeker in the ordinary business world. You can imagine the results! Meanwhile, *Tiny Warriors* gives us the adventures of six little kung fu fighting animals – lion, goat, hamster, and more. Find out more by visiting [www.animationdc.com](http://www.animationdc.com).

Coming this fall to Cartoon Network is *Secret Saturdays*, a new cartoon series created by **Jay Stephens** (who had previously created *Tutenstein*). Originally called *Cryptids*, the show involves a family of world-wide adventurers who seek out legendary creatures – the Loch Ness monster, the chupacabra, and so forth. Interestingly, the Saturday clan not only seeks to find these creatures, they also work to protect them from people who would expose and exploit them. Assisting the Saturdays in their efforts are three unusual creatures: A sasquatch-type "gorilla-cat" known as the Fiskerton Phantom, a pterosaur, and a komodo dragon that can become invisible. The show premieres this September. Visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Secret\\_Saturdays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Secret_Saturdays) to find out more about the show.

Here's one we have to wonder if it'll make it to the States: Sunshine Barry and the Disco Worms. Yes, that's the title. This new CGI feature (premiering in Denmark this October) tells the story of Barry, a bored, ordinary working worm... who discovers the power of disco music and dancing to brighten his life. You can see a clip from the feature at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLUSN3\\_BgZg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLUSN3_BgZg).

The long-in-development animated TV series *Guardians of Luna* (created by **Avi Melman** of Cybergraphix Animation) is finally coming to light, with a schedule to be in production by the fall of 2009. **Michael Reaves** (*Gargoyles*) is the head writer for the series. The story tells of a tribe of werewolves known as the Gurn who – begrudgingly, as they don't even like each other – band together to protect their city from ancient monsters and power-mad humans. Check out both <http://guardiansofluna.livejournal.com> and <http://news.toonzone.net/article.php?ID=11438> to find out more.

Word has snuck out that Hollywood (or, more specifically, Warner Brothers) have given the go-ahead to a big-screen CGI adaptation of *ThunderCats*. **Jerry Flaherty** (a veteran of video games like *Gears of War*) is directing from a script by **Paul Sopocy**. Lion-O and the rest of the ThunderCats are scheduled to take on the evil sorcerer Mumm-Ra and his band of bestial baddies in the summer of 2010.

## Videos and DVDs

Now entering the "about time!" department: Fries Home Video (!) has finally released the Urso Major Award-nominated film *Anonymous Rex* (from 2004) to DVD. Starring **Sam Trammell** and **Alec Baldwin**, this film is actually based on **Eric Garcia's** Urso Major Award-winning novel *Casual Rex* – the prequel to his book *Anonymous Rex*. The story is the same: Dinosaurs, it seems, did not go extinct. Instead they evolved into human-sized creatures who now live among us, using holographic disguises to appear as ordinary humans. And any human who discovers this... must die.

More of Hollywood getting around to it: Paramount Home Video presents the *Duckman Complete Collection Volume 1* on DVD, which collects the first two seasons of this popular animated TV series from the early 1990's. Originally shown on the USA Network, the series followed the adventures of a fowl-mouthed (no pun) and eternally poor private detective named Eric Duckman (voiced by **Jason Alexander**), his competent pig assistant Cornfed, and his extremely weird family.

Getting-around-to-it Department: Warner Brothers Home Video is finally releasing *Tiny Toon Adventures: Season 1, Volume 1* to DVD this summer. In fact, the first release is a 4-disc set of 35 *Tiny Toons Adventures* episodes, as well as a behind-the-scenes featurette called *From Wacky Tunes to Tiny Toons: A Looney Evolution*. To many animation fans, of course, this early-1990's show was a gear-up for *Animaniacs*: So pick it up and see how it all began!

## Comics

An update: *Wendigo* from Arcana Studios (as mentioned in our previous issue) has changed its name to *The Gwaii* ("The Islands" in the Native American Haida language). The story is still the same: Tanu, a young sasquatch from the islands off British Columbia, Canada, must battle fearsome creatures in his quest to save his family from marauding humans. This new full-color 4-issue mini-series is brought to you by Sean O'Reilly and Pedro Del Gado.

New from Markosia Enterprises: *N-Guard*, a full-color anthropomorphic comic series by Phillip Jackson and Mickey Clausen. This from their web site ([www.markosia.com/Comics.aspx?ID=25](http://www.markosia.com/Comics.aspx?ID=25)): "While on a fieldtrip to the legendary Stones of Nature, Boon, Kat Nip, Klondike and Quickstep find themselves drawn into an age-old conflict between Willow, the Mother of Nature and the vile SpiderSect Empire. Reluctantly, our heroes are propelled into the fray when Mother Nature bestows to them the fabled Amulets of Nature, granting them astonishing powers. Together, they become the N-Guard."

It's summer, and time to... *Hit the Beach!* The popular annual pin-up gathering from Radio Comic returns, with 40 pages of all new black & white artwork from the likes of Joe Rosales, Megan Giles, Trump, Ursula Husted, Christina Hanson, DAQ, Eddie Perkins, Shon Howell, Brian Sutton, Yamaneko-Ya, and many, many more.

As the Vietnam War dragged on, the U.S. government finally turned to its latest secret weapon: A battalion of specially trained, biologically advanced chimpanzees! That's the premise of *Guerillas* (get it?), a new 9-issue black & white miniseries written and illustrated by **Brahm Revel**. It's coming in August from Image Comics.

Speaking of Image, if you're looking for an introduction to some of their famous monster-oriented comic books, you'd do well to pick up the *Image Monster Pile-Up*, a new full-color one-shot that features new stories and background information from the creators of *The Astonishing Wolf-Man*, *Firebreather*, *Perhanapants*, and *Proof*. Visit [www.imagecomics.com](http://www.imagecomics.com) to find out more.

Top Cow (finally!) releases the previously-mentioned full-color comic book mini-series *Dragon Prince* this September. It's written by **Ron Marz** and illustrated by **Lee Moder**. The story: Aaron Chiang is a misfit kid who discovers just why he never seems to "fit in" - he is the Dragon Prince, the last of his kind and heir to the bloodline of all dragons. Hunted to the brink of extinction by a secret society of wizards, dragonkind's survival is now in this boy's hands.

Vimanika is a new line of full-color comic books with stories based on Hindu philosophy and mythology. One title in particular should be noted by furry fans: *Moksha* (written

by **Arnab Das**, with art by **Dheeraj Verma**) tells the story of Lord Hanuman, the monkey god, and his battle with a dangerous tribe of wolf-people.

*Cocktails* is the provocative title of a new adults-only gay-themed black & white furry comic from Hot Cider Press (a division of Club Stripes). The first issue features stories by **Onta**, **GuNMouTh**, **Daria McGrain**, **Gideon**, **Blueblurlover**, **Meesh**, and **Miu**, with additional illustration by **Kamicheetah** and **Yxxx**. Also coming soon (in book form) is this year's *Best of Club Stripes* - a big, full-color, all-subjects book (girls, guys, 'other') featuring many of the same artists as above. Club Stripes is currently taking pre-orders. You can find out more at <http://shop.clubstripes.com>. (You must be 18 years old or more to enter the site)

*Blazin' Brandy* is a new full-color comic book series by **Stephanie Lesniak**, available at comic book shops everywhere. Brandy is a fiery redhead (in more ways than one!) who finds herself marooned on a mysterious island filled with adventure, legends, and many strange creatures - some friendly, and some not so much! Visit [www.scrappycomics.com](http://www.scrappycomics.com) to find out more, including where to find the comic.

**Steve Troop**, creator of *Melonpool* (previously reviewed in these very pages!), has created a new full-color comic series called *Crypto-Zooey* (published by Alien Porkchop Publishing). A young girl named Zooey searches the world for her missing parents - with the assistance of some very unusual characters. Namely: Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, and a host of other well-known legends. Visit [www.cryptozooey.com](http://www.cryptozooey.com) to find out more.

*Supa-Rillas* is the name of the first full-color comic released by the art team of **John Loter** and **Steve Loter**. They've already spent several years doing product design art and children's book illustration for Disney and other companies. Find out more about the new comics and the brothers' other work at their web site, [www.loter.com](http://www.loter.com).

Boom! Studios have teamed up with the Walt Disney Company to produce a new line of monthly, full-color comics for younger readers. First up is *The Muppet Show - The Comic Book*, featuring the further adventures of Kermit the Frog, Ms. Piggy, Fozzy Bear, Gonzo the something, and many others - including some old favorites like "Muppet Labs" and "Pigs in Space". Boom! will also be releasing a series of titles based on Disney/Pixar films, including *Toy Story: Finding Nemo*, *Monsters, Inc.*, and *The Incredibles*. All of these titles are scheduled to be released this winter.

## Books and Trade Paperbacks

How's this for a combination? Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and *Heavy Metal* magazine! That's the source of *Body Count*, a new full-color hardcover graphic novel by **Kevin Eastman** and **Simon Bisley**, released by yep, Heavy Metal. Casey Jones and Rafael (he's the angry turtle, remember?) find themselves caught up in an international family murder/revenge/assassination plot, complete with gangsters, thugs, secret agents, and double agents! Each and every copy of this limited-edition hardcover will be signed by **Kevin Eastman** himself.

Duncan Hughes is a decidedly sheepish lawyer. He lacks a killer instinct, his boss complains. Well, that completely changes when Duncan old college buddy invites him to join up with a new firm, Ferris & Loop. Suddenly Duncan and his new pack, er, pals are taking on a decidedly "toothy" cast! It all takes place in *Barking*, the new comic/fantasy/legal drama novel (!) by **Tom Holt**. It's available in hardcover from Little & Brown.

This August, Image Comics is offering a new printing of *PX! Book One: A Girl and her Panda*, a classic full-color trade paperback by **Manny Trembley** and **Eric A. Anderson**. A young girl named Dahlia and her trusty giant panda sidekick travel the globe, seeking to free Dahlia's father from the evil clutches of a power-mad goat named Pollo. Also from Image is Volume Two of *Tellos Colossal* in hardcover, collecting material created by other artists and writers for *Tellos*, created by **Todd DeZago** and the late **Mike Wieringo**.

In conjunction with a new **Jeff Smith** exhibit at the Wexner Center and Cartoon Research Library, Cartoon Books presents *Jeff Smith: Bone & Beyond*. This hardcover catalog of the exhibit includes various preliminary drawings for *Bone*, as well as Jeff's more recent works like *Shazam* and *Rasht*. It also features works by cartoonists that have influenced Jeff in his career, including **George Herriman**, **Charles Schulz**, and **Walt Kelly**, as well as essays on Jeff's works from the likes of **Neil Gaiman** and others.

After 20 years, it's time to celebrate! Titan Publishing brings us *Tank Girl 1 - The Anniversary Edition* by (who else?) **Alan Martin** and **Jamie Hewlett**. Celebrate two decades worth of the girl, her tank, and her long-suffering kangaroo friends. This mostly-black & white trade paperback collects *Tank Girl* comics, posters, and illustrations from issues #1 — #15 of the cult British magazine *Deadline*, as well as new material from Martin and Hewlett.

Slave Labor Graphics (SLG) collects the first series of *Ursa Minors* (by **Neil Kleid**, **Paul Cote**, and **Fernando Pinto**) in the new *Ursa Minors Volume 1: The Collected, Wait-For-The-Trade-Edition* trade paperback (gotta love that title, eh?). The black & white comic tells the story of three modern teens who find themselves in possession of super-powered bear suits. Do they use them to fight supervillains and save the world? No! They use them to find comics, beer, and comics about beer! And, just occasionally, to save their home town from super-villains.

Speaking of collections, Antarctic Press has put together the first two story arcs from the popular black & white series *Far West* by **Richard Moore** (*Boneyard*) into a new digest-sized trade paperback, *Far West Pocket Manga Volume 1*. Join Meg (an elf) and Phil (a talking bear), bounty hunters traveling in an Old West that never was, fighting against train-robbing dragons and marauding ogres and much, much worse.

Offered again for the first time since 1991: *Disney's Duck Tales - The Gold Odyssey* trade paperback by **Langhans**, **Quartieri**, **Bat**, and **Valenti**. In this full-color adventure (reprinting the story arc originally found in *Duck Tales* issues #9 - 15), Scrooge McDuck and Launchpad McQuack find themselves in a globe-spanning (and space-fairing!) battle with Flintheart Glomgold for an 84-karat asteroid.

If you're a fan of the well-known illustrated books *Animalia* and *The Eleventh Hour*, you should check out *The Art of Graeme Base*, edited by **Julie Watts** (coming from Abrams this September). This large hardcover book features original photographs and never-before-seen art from the author and artist of such works as *The Water Hole*, *The Sign of the Seahorse*, and *The Worst Band in the Universe*.

**Gabriele Pennacchioli** is a designer and animator for Dreamworks Animation - he's worked on *Shrek Tale*, *Flushed Away*, *Shrek the Third*, and *Kung Fu Panda*. On the side though, he's created his own series of art prints and comics. His latest, *The Young Minotaur*, can be purchased at Stuart Ng Books ([www.stuartngbooks.com](http://www.stuartngbooks.com)). This 48-page full-color hardcover book includes a 19-page graphic adventure of the minotaur, as well as development art and preliminary sketches. You can find out more at Gabriele's web site, <http://gabrielepennacchioli.blogspot.com>.

*Kiskaloo* is the realization of a dream for *Lilo and Stitch* creator **Chris Sanders**. His own comic strip. This self-published trade paperback is the first collection of this new black & white strip following the adventures of various characters (human, animal, and just-plain-strange) in the little town of Kiskaloo. Chief among them is a one-eyed, pirate-patched feline named Ogo, who used to be a Hollywood animal star. That capsule description hardly serves to describe the odd adventures that Ogo and his human and animal friends find themselves in - trust us. Just try visiting [www.kiskaloo.com](http://www.kiskaloo.com) to get a better idea - and, to order the new book.

Best-selling author **Christopher Paolini** returns in September with *Bristling*, the latest hardcover novel in his "Inheritance Cycle" trilogy of dragon-riding adventure from Random House. Young Eragon and his dragon partner, Saphira, struggle to fulfill various duties and keep various oaths... all the while keeping their eyes on their main goal: To rid the land of the tyranny of King Galbatorix!

Late in September, Insight Editions and well-known animation writer and historian **Jerry Beck** will release three hardcover books dedicated to world-famous Hanna-Barbera animated characters: *The Flintstones*, *Scooby Doo*, and *Tom and Jerry*. Look for the Insight Mini-Classics series on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*Red Moon* is a new black & white graphic novel scheduled for release in 2009. It tells the story of an unhappy urban schnauzer named Mox, who's released from his captivity by Daeden, a stray blue heeler. As these two new friends travel the land together, Mox begins having horrific visions of the world in chaos, under the light of an ugly red moon. Is he seeing the future? We'll have to wait and see. Meanwhile, as the novel is worked on the creators - writer and artist **David McAdoo** and editor **Steve Kozak** - are keeping a detailed log of the production, marketing, and public outreach for the novel on their web site, [www.redmoongraphicnovel.com](http://www.redmoongraphicnovel.com).

## Games

Heard about *Bella Sara*? It's a brand new trading card game from Scandinavia which, having achieved success there, is beginning a trial run in North America. The cards are marketed toward girls and have images of illustrated horses (from the magical land North of North) and their

magical companions with positive, inspirational messages on them. Each card also includes a unique activation code which can be used to play online at the cards' website ([www.bellasara.com](http://www.bellasara.com)).

**David Petersen's** award-winning *Mouse Guard* comic series has been turned into a new role-playing game, available from Archia Studios Press ([www.aspcomics.com](http://www.aspcomics.com)). Created by award-winning designer **Luke Crane**, the game allows players to take on the role of a mouse guard patrol, seeking to protect mouse-kind with a series of missions, while the game-master takes on the role of the weather, predators, and other dangers that the mouse patrols must face to complete their tasks. It will see its official premier at GenCon 2008.

*Cyborg Mice*. You'd remember a title like that, wouldn't you? It's the new game system created by **Martin** (of Biornid Studios). In the future there will also be a comic book series and more art prints involved as well. Visit [www.cyborgmice.com](http://www.cyborgmice.com) for updates from the creators.

*Professor Brainstorm* is the name of a collectible card game with a different sort of purpose: To teach young minds about the wonders of math and grammar. But that hardly begins to describe the lush fantasy world of adventurers, talking animals, and fantastical creatures that the game includes. To find out more about *that*, visit their web site at [www.playbrainstorm.com](http://www.playbrainstorm.com), or else look up the starter packs and expansion sets at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

### Web Sites and Other Cool Stuff

Animal Quacker Productions is the home of **Bob Renzas**, artist and illustrator. Employed for many years working in commercials for some of your favorite sugary breakfast cereals, Bob has built up quite a resume – which he also applies to his own comic strips, character designs, and animated shorts. Check out his site at <http://animalquackerproductions.com> to see what's up.

**Tim Raglin** is a writer and illustrator of children's books and other media. Books with titles like *Bill in a China Shop*, *The Wolf Who Cried Boy*, and *The Curse of Catunkhamun* – the latter one part of the Scott and West series, chronicling the adventures of a pair of daring canine detectives. Find these and many more stories and illustrations at Tim's web site, [www.timraglin.com](http://www.timraglin.com).

Fat Cat Animation is a freelance animation group out of Phoenix, Arizona, whose staff includes various artists who have worked on films as diverse as *Bartok the Magnificent*, *Spirit*, *Curious George*, and *Titan A.E.* Now they've hooked up with an entertainment franchise known as Croc Pond to create a series of inspirational short films for children. Their first effort, *Rindin the Puffer*, has been winning awards at animation festivals – and is available on their web site. Visit [www.fatcatanimation.com](http://www.fatcatanimation.com) to find out more about the company, and [www.crocpound.com](http://www.crocpound.com) to find out more about *Rindin* and the other anthrop characters and films that they're currently completing.

*Cute Oddities* is the interesting name of a new line of licensable "kawaii" pop-culture characters created by a group of artists in Los Angeles, California. "Making the world a brighter place, one friend at a time." That's what they say. Visit their web site and find out more: [www.myspace.com/cuteoddity](http://www.myspace.com/cuteoddity)

At the other end of things... It looks like foul-mouthed squirrels have some competition! *Benny, the Escaped Convict* is a stoat ("Not a weasel, dammit!") who is, well, an escaped convict! He's also the star of a series of short animated cartoons created by **Nye Warburton** and **Ryan Levin**. You can see what Benny's been up to – and how others around him have suffered for it – by taking a look at [www.bennyescapeconvict.com](http://www.bennyescapeconvict.com).

From Minneapolis... to Transylvania! *Transylvania TV* is a new adult-oriented puppet show created by the team of **Gordon Smuder**, **Mike Heagle**, and **Clarke Stone** from Minnesota. Here's how it works: The mighty vampire known as Count LeShock, fearing a loss of control over the masses due to modern times (when everything is scary, who cares about a vampire?), decides to exert his influence through the miracle of modern television. So he sends out his assistant BatFink to find help – which he finds in the form of Furry Ackermonger, a young yeti with a degree in broadcasting. As you can tell, the puns come fast and furry-ous! Find out more (and see the latest episodes) at [www.transylvania-tv.com](http://www.transylvania-tv.com).

Well, penguins have done everything else... now they're food critics! At least one is: *Pavel the Penguin*, writer of the Big City's favorite restaurant review column, "Eat in the City", in the venerable newspaper *The Ancient Times*. Pavel, his friends, and his rivals are all part of the colorful world created by **Raj Hathiramani** and **Chris Coggan**, to be found at [www.pavelthepenguin.com](http://www.pavelthepenguin.com).

Well-known animation designer (*Kim Possible*, *Danny Phantom*) and educator **Stephen Silver** is now offering a 9-week online correspondence course in animation character design at [www.schoolism.com](http://www.schoolism.com) – where you can learn many art techniques from a variety of artists as well.

< from *Fur & Feathers* : >

For many furies like me, being a young pup back in the 1980's, one of many beloved fads was that cuddly, plushy ursine **Teddy Ruxpin**. Well, he's out of hibernation and available at [www.bettysaltic.com](http://www.bettysaltic.com). Everything a bedtime bud can remember is there. There are his story cartridges, classic pictures, and songbooks that entertained boys as well as girls. [To find out more about Teddy Ruxpin and Worlds of Wonder, visit [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy\\_Ruxpin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teddy_Ruxpin) — *ye ed-otter*]

### Obituaries

Hollywood special effects and the cinema of imagination lost one of their big stars when veteran special-effects creator **Stan Winston** passed away in June, at the age of 62. Winston's studio was responsible for creating some of the most well-known and visually arresting creature effects ever seen in movies, from *Terminator* to *Jurassic Park*, from *Predator* to *Tank Girl*, from *Aliens* to *Small Soldiers*... Winston's effects moved easily from puppetry and make-up effects to full-sized animatronics, and eventually, to digital creations. Fortunately for Hollywood, the small army of creative folk who make up the Stan Winston Studios will carry on in his memory.

Sideways furry note: By now you've probably heard that comedian **George Carlin** also passed away this last June at the age of 71. Not only was he one of the most innovative

and imitated funny guys in the world [A *Place For My Stuff* may be one of the funniest comedy records ever made, period – *ye humble ed-otter's opinion*], but he had a career later in life as a voice actor. Notably as the grouchy old gorilla named Zogor in 2005's *Tarzan II*, and of course as a cool talking VW Bus into alternative fuels in *Cars* from 2006. We'll miss you, George.

Since this issue was late, we can include the sad news that animation pioneer **Bill Melendez** left us this September at the age of 91. During a career in animation that lasted nearly 70 years (!) Jose Cuatrecasas "Bill" Melendez worked on everything from *Fantasia*, *Dumbo*, and *Rambi* at Walt Disney Studios to Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck short cartoons at Warner Brothers. But, shortly after forming Bill Melendez Productions in the early 1960s, Bill and his crew brought **Charles Schulz'** *Peanuts* characters to life in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* – and for the rest of his life, Bill Melendez would be closely associated with Charlie Brown and Snoopy. Especially Snoopy: Bill provided his voice in all of the *Peanuts* TV specials and feature films.

**"We are Noodle Folk. Broth runs deep through our veins."** [Mr. Ping, duck, to his son Po, panda, in Dreamworks' *Kung Fu Panda*]

**Keep it Fresh!** So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my **Subscription to In-Fur-Nation?** We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep **four** times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: *In-Fur-Nation*, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958. What, don't want more dead trees in your mailbox? Fine! Let us know and we'll e-mail you your issues of *In-Fur-Nation* as .pdf files, right to your inbox.

**A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions:** Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for **free!**

**A Request to Our Readers:** Hey, got a favorite comic store or bookshop that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that *you* would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! *As an alternate:* Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

**Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters!** As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to furry animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or you can e-mail your submission to [Rod O'Riley at rods064@hotmail.com](mailto:Rod O'Riley at rods064@hotmail.com).

**Advertising in In-Fur-Nation:** For those who've been asking, ads in *In-Fur-Nation* come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for **\$5.00** per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for **\$10.00** per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for **\$50.00** an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958, or send email to [rods064@hotmail.com](mailto:rods064@hotmail.com).

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

And here's a look at Coming Attractions...

**Furry (and sorta-furry) Conventions coming your way soon!**

#### Western PA Fall Furry Weekend

The Western Pennsylvania Fall Furry Weekend is an anthropomorphics (or "furry") gathering that will take place October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This event is organized and coordinated by local furries and is now celebrating its ninth year. We have events and activities planned for all three days, including programming for Friday night and Saturday morning. A fun filled Fur-b-que Saturday afternoon, the much renowned Charity Baffle, more programming Saturday night topped off with a Furry Weekend Menagerie, an outing to the Pittsburgh Zoo on Sunday and wrapped up with dinner at Steak n' Shake. This year's featured artist is the talented **MendhiX!** She is a native of the Pittsburgh area, and has been creating artwork in the furry fandom for many years. She has provided the cover art for this year's program guide.

The event staff and I would like to announce our Furry Weekend Charity as The Beaver County Humane Society. We will be conducting a chinese auction at the Fur-b-que to help raise money for a worthy charity that provides a needed service to the Beaver County area.

Once again the event hotel is the Comfort Inn Pittsburgh North, 2801 Freepport Road, Pittsburgh PA 15238. Western PA Fall Furry Weekend has a secured a flat rate of **\$74.99/night**, plus taxes, for up to five guests. To reserve a room, call the Comfort Inn directly at (412) 828-9400. When you call you must tell the agent at the desk that you are with the Western PA Furry Weekend to get this room rate.

At-the-door registrations for the event will be **\$25.00**. To find out more, send an SASE to: Mr. Patrick Glen Rockhill, 100 West 8th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15215. Or, just visit [www.wyafw.org](http://www.wyafw.org) for all the details.

### FurFright

FurFright is a Halloween-themed Anthropomorphic Convention taking place October 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Waterbury outside Waterbury, Connecticut. FurFright is a 3-day con with a full schedule of programming Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Big News: The host hotel is opening a brand new, \$12 million indoor water park, right next door, and FurFright attendees will have special group rates! Visit the FurFright web site ([www.furfright.org](http://www.furfright.org)) to find out more!

The Holiday Inn Waterbury (3580 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06705) is located east of Waterbury, CT, just off I-84. Numerous restaurants are within a short driving distance, and about a half-hour away is the world's most incredible diner (off Exit 10 on I-84). A mall and BJ's Wholesale can be found a few exits west, and a COSTCO is located directly next door. The phone number for the hotel is 888-HOLIDAY (465-4329). The room rate is **\$99.00** per night for up to four furies.

This year FurFright is very proud to welcome comedian and performer known as **Beetlejuice** and the artist known as **Likeshine** as our special Guests of Honor.

FurFright attendees can register at the door of the convention at the Monster (**\$40.00**), Zombie (**\$55.00** or more), FrankenSponsor (**\$90.00** or more) or even "Casanova FrankenSponsor" (**\$200.00** or more) levels. Visit their web site at [www.furfright.org](http://www.furfright.org) to find out more, or write to them at FurFright 2005, P.O. Box 264, Durham, CT 06422-0264.

### Oklacon 2008

In honor of Oklacon 6, our members have chosen the theme of "The Mark of the Beast". This year's Special Guest of Honor is **Jeff Goode**, creator of the wildly popular "American Dragon: Jake Long" animated TV series on the Disney Channel.

The convention will be held October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Roman Nose State Park near Watonga, Oklahoma. Several types of accommodation are found there, but check the web site for what's available where and when. Memberships are available for **\$29.00** until October 1<sup>st</sup>, and go up to **\$44.00** at the door (Patron and Sponsor memberships are available too!). From the web site: "Taking place each year the weekend before Halloween, Oklacon brings together furies from all over the mid-western and southern United States in one of the most beautiful outdoor settings in the country. Hailed by many as the most affordable furry convention in the world, Oklacon brings us all together for a fantastic weekend of art, costumes, and friendship around the orange glow of the campfire. If you've never attended a furry convention before, or if you're one of our regular family members, we look forward to seeing you this year! Our cabins are going like hotcakes! If you're interested in reserving a cabin,

please do so soon, as we only have four left. Of course, we also have a variety of other accommodation options should the cabins fill up!"

Check out [www.oklacon.com](http://www.oklacon.com) for more information about cabins, accommodations, directions, and other con details.

### Midwest FurFest

Brrrr! This year's theme is *North to Alaska*, as the convention is moving north – a few miles at least, to Wheeling, Illinois. It takes place November 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, at The Westin Chicago North Shore (601 North Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL 60090), about 30 miles north of Chicago. The telephone number is (847) 777-6500. FurSuit rooms are available – but the hotel is almost sold out! Check the convention web site for info regarding overflow hotels.

The FurFest Guests of Honor this year include **Lucky the Evil Dog** (fursuit performer and mascot-for-hire), **Darc** and **Matt Sowers** (the team behind the on-line comic strip *Code Name: Hunter*), and the artist **Foxfeather Zenkova**.

Pre-Registration is: **\$40.00** for Regular Membership after September 30, 2008, and at the door. **\$120.00** for Sponsorship, which includes meal with Guests of Honor and T-shirt, plus more!

Please make checks payable to "Midwest FurFest". Mail Registration with payment to: **Midwest Furry Fandom**, P.O. Box 508, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. Or, check out their web site at [www.furfest.org](http://www.furfest.org) for information on guests, events, activities, and more!

### ConFurtiva

ConFurtiva, or Convicción Furtiva (in English: Furtive Conviction) is set to be Mexico's very first furry-themed convention! It's set to take place November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, in the city of Xochitepec, Cuernavaca, Mexico (approximately 50 miles south of Mexico City). The host hotel "is in a prime location of access in central Mexico", according to the organizers. Memberships will be sold as a "package", which includes accommodations. Visit the web site (sorry, espanol only!) at <http://confurtiva.furrymx.org/index.php> to find out more about this brand-new event.

### R.B.W.

RBW (originally Red, Blue, & White) is the UK's first and Europe's second largest furry convention. Held annually in London, England, it attracts furs from across the UK, Europe and the US. The next event is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> in, again, London. Guests of Honor this time around include the artist **Zen**, the fur-suiter **Timduru**, and the furry musician **Cheetah**. Visit their web site at [www.rbw.org.uk](http://www.rbw.org.uk) to find out more.

Well, that's all for now – whew! Here's hoping we'll get to see you again, soon. But it's up to you! Keep up your subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* and don't forget to check out our web site at [www.infurnation.com](http://www.infurnation.com). We'll see you this fall! [Rod O'Beley, your ed-otter]

**Hear Ye, Hear Ye!**  
**Be the First!**



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